

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a listing of the currently pending claims:

1. (original) Body structure for a motor vehicle, having a seat cross-member which is arranged to extend transversely with respect to, and be connected with, a frame side member and exterior side members, the frame side member comprising a U-profile with bent-away sections which are constructed as a top-side support for the seat cross member, the seat cross member comprising a U-profile connected in each case on a facing side with the frame side member,

wherein a partition part is arranged between a bent-away section of the frame side member which faces the side member, and

wherein the partition part in a watertight manner closes off a passage surface formed by the bent-away section and the U-profile of the seat cross member.

2. (original) Body structure according to Claim 1, wherein, in an installed condition, the partition part is constructed with a basic member arranged in a vertical plane and a surrounding expansion foam which is arranged at a spacing from passage surfaces of the frame side member and the seat cross member.

3. (original) Body structure according to Claim 1, wherein the passage surfaces in an end installed condition, are sealingly filled on all sides with the expansion foam.

4. (original) Body structure according to Claim 1, wherein the basic support is connected with the bent-away section of the frame side member profile by way of fastening elements.

5. (original) Body structure according to Claim 4, wherein the fastening elements are clips.

6. (original) Body structure according to Claim 3, wherein the basic support is connected with the bent-away section of the frame side member profile by way of fastening elements.

7. (original) Body structure according to Claim 6, wherein the fastening elements are clips.

8. (original) A vehicle body assembly comprising:
an exterior lateral side member which in use extends along a lateral side of a vehicle body,
a frame side member which in use extends along the vehicle body at a spacing from the exterior lateral side member, and
a seat cross member supported on the exterior lateral side member and the frame side member, and

a partition assembly interposed between the seat cross member and the frame side member and operable to form a watertight seal between the facing sections of the frame side member and the seat cross member.

9. (original) A vehicle body assembly according to Claim 8, wherein said seat cross member and frame side member are formed as U-profile members which face one another to form a passage intermediate facing flanges, and wherein said partition assembly is disposed in use in said passage.

10. (original) A vehicle body assembly according to Claim 9, wherein said partition assembly comprises:

a basic member disposed to be spaced from respective facing walls of said passage, and

expandable foam surrounding the basic member to sealingly fill respective spaces between the basic member and the respective facing walls of said passage.

11. (original) A vehicle body assembly according to Claim 10, comprising fasteners fastening bent away flanges of said frame side member to said basic member.

12. (original) A method of making the assembly of Claim 11, comprising: fastening the basic member to said frame side member,

fastening the seat cross member to said frame side member with the already fastened basic member,

filling spaces between the basic member and the seat cross member and frame side member with expandable foam material, and

heating the assembly to cause the foam material to expand and seal said passage.

13. (original) A vehicle body assembly comprising:

an exterior lateral side member which in use extends along a lateral side of a vehicle body,

a frame side member which in use extends along the vehicle body at a spacing from the exterior lateral side member, and

a seat cross member supported on the exterior lateral side member and the frame side member, and

partition means interposed between said seat cross member and frame side member to form a watertight seal between facing sections of the frame side member and seat cross member to thereby prevent water leakage from the frame side member through the seat cross member to said exterior lateral side member.

14. (original) A partition assembly interposable between a vehicle frame side member and a vehicle seat cross member to prevent water transmission from the vehicle frame side member to a vehicle exterior lateral side member by way of the seat cross member, said partition assembly comprising:

a basic partition part disposable in a passage formed between the seat cross member and the frame side member, and
expandable foam surrounding the basic partition part.

15. (original) A method of making a vehicle body assembly comprising:
an exterior lateral side member which in use extends along a lateral side of a vehicle body,

a frame side member which in use extends laterally of the vehicle body at a spacing from the exterior lateral side member, and

a seat cross member supported on the exterior lateral side member and the frame side member,

said method including:

placing a solid basic member in a passage formed between facing portion of said frame side member and seat cross member,

filling the passage with expandable foam, and

expanding said foam to seal said passage and thereby create a watertight seal preventing communication of water from the frame side member by way of the seat cross member to the exterior lateral side member.